

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 17269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MOVES TOWARD LABORIOUS COMPRO-
MISE

REF: ROME 17191

1. DEEP-SEATED DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN DC ON PARTY POLICY,
TIMING OF CONGRESS AND REVISED CRITERIA FOR SELECTING CONGRESS
DELGATES AGAIN FLARED INTO OPEN DURING SECOND DAY OF
NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION.

2. DC CENTER-RIGHT FORCES LED BY FANFANI, PICCOLI AND
ANDREOTTI DOWNPLAYED SIGNIFICANCE OF ZACCAGNINI POLICY SPEECH
(REFTEL). CENTER-RIGHT BLOC PRESENTED MOTION CALLING FOR
HOLDING PARTY CONGRESS IN ROME BY FEBRUARY 15 AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF "GUARANTEE" COMMITTEE INCLUDING FOUR PARTY
VICE SECRETARIES (ANTONIOZZI, FALCUCCI, GALLONI, AND RUFFINI)
AND DC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LEADERS (BARTOLOMEI AND PICCOLI)
TO ASSIST ZACCAGNINI IN PREPARING CONGRESS. FOUR OF THOSE
NAMED WOULD SUPPORT CENTER-RIGHT.

3. ZACCAGNINI SUPPORTERS, JOINED OPENLY FOR FIRST TIME
BY TREASURY MINISTER COLOMBO, INSTEAD URGED IMMEDIATE
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POLICY DEBATE (BUT NOT VOTE) ON ZACCAGNINI SPEECH. AS

TEMPERS FLARED, MORO STEPPED IN WITH SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH LEADERS OF CONTENDING FACTIONS, AND LIMITED COMPROMISE REACHED TO DISCUSS SIMULTANEOUSLY POLICY, PROCEDURES AND CONGRESS TIMING. DEBATE NOW UNDERWAY.

4. COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL FACTIONS WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT REVISED CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CONGRESS DELEGATES SO FAR HAS FAILED TO REACH COMPROMISE. CENTER-RIGHT IS PRESSING FOR FORMULA GIVING MORE REPRESENTATION TO PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES, WHILE ZACCAGNINI GROUP IS FIGHTING FOR A LARGER VOICE AT CONGRESS FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COLLATERAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ACLI AND CISL. AT ISSUE IS CONTROL OF PARTY CONGRESS AND CALCULATION BY EACH SIDE AS TO CRITERIA FOR DELEGATE SELECTION WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM GREATEST LEVERAGE. UNDER EXISTING RULES OR THOSE PROPOSED BY FANFANI, PICCOLI, AND ANDREOTTI, CENTER-RIGHT WOULD ASSURE ITSELF A CONTINUED MAJORITY.

5. RADIO HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO OPEN CONGRESS IN ROME BETWEEN FEBRUARY 29 AND MARCH 4. COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL PARTY FACTIONS TO DECIDE PRECISE DATE. AGREEMENT ON CONGRESS DATE INCREASES PROBABILITY THAT NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL REACH COMPROMISE ON OTHER POINTS AT ISSUE AND THAT DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN PARTY WILL AGAIN BE PAPERED OVER. WHILE OPEN SPLIT IN PARTY WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY WEAKEN DC AT THIS STAGE, PARTY WILL BE IN POOR SHAPE TO FACE SPRING ELECTIONS IF CONGRESS DOES NOT PRODUCE CLEAR POLICY LINE AND CONSEQUENT ORGANIZATIONAL INITIATIVE BACKED BY WORKABLE MAJORITY. BEAUDRY

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